

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-10 L-03 ACDA-12
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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1785
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION USNATO
USNMR SHAPE
USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST IZMIR
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES
CINCEUR
AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL IZMIR
USICA WASHDC

UNCLAS ANKARA 3445

USICA FOR PGM/RC/PGM/PPE, EU, VOA/PN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MILI, MASS, TU, NATO

SUBJECT: NATO AND THE OGARKOV VISIT

1. ON MAY 4, MODERATE "MILLIYET" PUBLISHED AN ARTICLE DATELINED
BRUSSELS FROM THE INFLUENTIAL COLUMNIST MEHMET ALI BIRAND ON
NATO'S PERCEPTION OF THE RECENT VISIT OF THE SOVIET CHIEF OF
STAFF OGARKOV TO TURKEY. BIRAND WRITES THAT WHILE NATO OFFICIALS
CONSIDER SUCH VISITS AN INTERNAL TURKISH AFFAIR AND "NORMAL"
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THEY PRIVATELY LINK THE VISIT WITH THE ONGOING EFFORT IN CONGRESS
TO LIFT THE ARMS EMBARGO TO TURKEY. DESPITE TURKISH DEFENSE
MINISTER ISIK'S DENIAL OF ANY LINK, BIRAND STATES THAT IN NATO
CAPITALS "THERE IS CONCERN THAT TURKEY MAY RESORT TO CERTAIN
POLICY CHANGES." IF THE EMBARGO IS NOT LIFTED, IT IS SUGGESTED
THAT TURKEY MAY ACQUIRE SOME MILITARY EQUIPMENT FROM THE
"EASTERN BLOC" IN THE NEAR FUTURE. "CONGRESS WILL ONLY UNDER-

STAND THIS LANGUAGE" THE ARTICLE QUOTES NATO OFFICIALS. BIRAND
DOES NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT FEW BELIEVE THAT TURKEY WILL
SUBSTITUTE SOVIET
FOR AMERICAN ARMS WHICH "TURKISH OFFICIALS" SAY
WOULD LEAVE TURKEY "DEFENSELESS" DURING A TRANSITION PERIOD
ESTIMATED AT THREE YEARS.

2. THE ARTICLE CONCLUDES WITH A QUOTE FROM AN UNSPECIFIED
GERMAN DIPLOMAT WHO ALLEGEDLY SAID, "IN WASHINGTON SEVERAL
HUNDRED PEOPLE ARE PLAYING WITH FIRE AND THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION
REMAINS A SPECTATOR."
SPIERS

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